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Audrey M. Yowell, PhD, MSSS  
Health Resources & Services Administration, MCH Bureau  
5600 Fishers Lane, 18A-39  
Rockville, MD 20857

September 17, 2010

Dear Ms. Yowell:

We, agencies within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Executive Office of Education (EOE), affirm that we are in concurrence with the Massachusetts Home Visiting Needs Assessment. This assessment has been completed in response to the Supplemental Information Request for the Submission of the Statewide Needs Assessment (SIR) which was released on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

We welcome this opportunity to continue our collaboration as we develop an Updated State Plan which will identify Massachusetts communities at risk for poor maternal, child and educational outcomes. The plan will also determine which evidence-based home visiting models would best meet the needs of our selected communities. We have long recognized the need for a coordinated delivery of critical health, development, early learning, child abuse and neglect prevention, substance use disorder treatment, and family support services to meet the needs of these communities. This is an opportunity for Massachusetts to build upon existing state resources and programs, and expand and strengthen our system of maternal and early childhood health home visiting services.

We look forward to continuing our work with federal and state partners to implement a home-visiting system of care that will benefit vulnerable mothers, children, and their families and will assist us in meeting our own mission of improving health and educational outcomes and reducing disparities through a community-based approach.

Sincerely,

Ron Benham  
Director, State Title V  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Sherri Killins  
Director, State Head Start Collaboration Office  
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

Michael Botticelli  
Director, State Agency for Substance Abuse Services  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health